

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
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44. (Canceled)

45. (New) A guide wire comprising:

a wire member, a first cover layer, a second cover layer and a coil, the wire member possessing an outer periphery;

the wire member including a first wire disposed on a distal side of the wire member and a second wire disposed on a proximal side from the first wire;

the first wire possessing a proximal end face and the second wire possessing a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire being welded to one another at a welded portion so that the first and second wires do not axially overlap one another;

the welded portion at which the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire are welded possessing an outer diameter;

the outer diameter of the wire member along its entire length being no greater than the outside diameter of the welded portion;

the second wire being made of a cobalt alloy or stainless steel;

the first wire being made of a superelastic alloy;

the first cover layer surrounding the outer periphery of the wire member and covering the welded portion between the first wire and the second wire;

the first cover layer being made of a resin material that reduces friction;

the second cover layer being disposed on the distal side of the first cover layer without an axial gap between the first cover layer and the second cover layer, the first cover layer and the second cover layer do not axially overlap one another;

the coil encircling a distal portion of the first wire and having an inside diameter greater than the outer diameter of at least a part of the distal portion of the first wire so that a gap exist between an inner periphery of the coil and the outer periphery of the part of the distal portion of the first wire; and

the second cover layer covering the entire outer surface of the coil.

46. (New) The guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

47. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a silicone resin.

48. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, where the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a metal having an elastic modulus that is equal to or smaller than that of the first wire.

49. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein a thickness of the first cover layer covering the welded portion is within the range of 1 to 2 μm and is uniform throughout the first cover layer.

50. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein the second wire is made from a Co--Ni--Cr alloy.

51. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein the first cover layer possesses a distal end that abuts a proximal end of the second cover layer at an interface located proximally of a proximal-most end of the coil.

52. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 51, wherein the coil possesses an inner surface, at least a portion of the inner surface of the coil being spaced from an outer surface of the first wire.

53. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 45, wherein the first wire includes a tapered portion, the second cover layer extending along only the tapered portion of the first wire.

54. (New) A guide wire comprising:

- a wire member including a first wire disposed on a distal side of said wire member and a second wire disposed on a proximal side from said first wire;
- the first wire possessing a proximal end face and the second wire possessing a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire being welded to one another at a welded portion so that the first and second wires do not axially overlap one another;
- the welded portion at which the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire are welded possessing an outer diameter;
- none of the wire member possessing an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the welded portion of the wire member;
- the second wire being made of a cobalt alloy or stainless steel;

the first wire being made of a superelastic alloy;

a first cover layer surrounding an outer periphery of the wire member and covering the welded portion between the first wire and the second wire;

the first cover layer being made of a resin material that reduces friction;

a second cover layer disposed on the distal side of the first cover layer without an axial gap between the first cover layer and the second cover layer, the first cover layer and the second cover layer do not axially overlap one another; and

wherein the first cover layer is formed such that the wire member is not heated at a time of covering the wire member with the first cover layer.

55. (New) The guide wire according to Claim 54, wherein the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a fluorocarbon resin or hydrophilic material.

56. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, wherein the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a silicone resin.

57. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, where the first cover layer covering the welded portion is made from a metal having an elastic modulus that is equal to or smaller than that of the first wire.

58. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, wherein a thickness of the first cover layer covering the welded portion is within the range of 1 to 2 μm and is uniform throughout the first cover layer.

59. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, wherein the second wire is made from a Co--Ni--Cr alloy.

60. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, further comprising a coil surrounding a distal end portion of the first wire, the second cover layer covering the coil.

61. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 60, wherein the first cover layer possesses a distal end that abuts a proximal end of the second cover layer at an interface located proximally of a proximal-most end of the coil.

62. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 60, wherein the coil possesses an inner surface, at least a portion of the inner surface of the coil being spaced from an outer surface of the first wire.

63. (New) A guide wire according to Claim 54, wherein the first wire includes a tapered portion, the second cover layer extending along only the tapered portion of the first wire.